Medical and Scientific Instruments Developed by CSIO

481. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the medical instruments, geoscientific instruments, instruments for environmental monitoring, robotics and process control, developed by the Central Scientific Instruments Organisation;

(b) whetehr these instruments have become popular and are being widely used; and

(c) what is the future programme for development of such instruments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDER K. ALAGH): (a) the salient features of the instruments developed by CSIO are as follows:

* Medical Instruments: Low cost instruments required by primary and district level health centres

* Geo-scientific Instruments: Cost effective instruments for use in seismic and land-slides studies

* Environment Instruments: Appropriate instruments for field measurement of dust and vehicular pollution

* Process Control Instruments: Ultrasonics based flow meters for measurement of flow in pipes

* Robotics: Ultrasonic sensors

(b) The know-how for the production of some of the instruments has been licensed to industry and are being commercially sold; While some others were tailor-made to user demands.

(c) Some of the instruments to be taken up for development are: Blood Gas Analyser, Low cost Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Auto Analyser, Instrumentation for Fisheries, Polymer based sensors for environmental monitoring, instruments for condition monitoring for power plants etc.

Power shortage in Gujarat

482. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gujarat is facing acute power shortage;

(b) whether there is any plan of NTPC to establish imported coal based power projects on the coast-line of Saurashtra or Kutch; and

(c) if so, by when the project is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Gujarat faced an energy shortage of 8.6% during April-May,1996 as against the average of 6.3% in the Western Region and an All India average of 11.3%.

(b) and (c) At present NTPC does not have any plan to establish imported coal based power projects on the coast line of Saurashtra or Kutch.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries

483. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr Government are considering expansion of Food Processing Industries in the country, particularly in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many multinationals and other foreign firms have shown interest in setting up Food Processing Industries in Madhya Pradesh, with details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR